

A problem is presented in the Gospel today by a conflict between Jesus and the Pharisees. "Why do your disciples not wash their hands before eating?" The question really reflects tensions in the early Christian community of Mark where some of the new Christians were Jews and some were Gentiles. The Gentiles did not follow Jewish customs and the Jewish Christians were upset.

The purpose of today's Gospel then is to put these Jewish customs in proper perspective. Washing hands before eating is a very sensible precaution. How often as children were we told: "Don't come to the table until you have washed your hands!"? Jesus is not criticising such precautions. What he is criticising is the disproportionate importance given to these things to the neglect of what is far more important, the love of God and the care for one's fellow human beings. It was this sense of deep compassion that made Francis of Assisi throw caution to the winds and kiss the leper he met on the road.

So Jesus today quotes from the prophet Isaiah: "This people honours me with their lips but their hearts are far from me. Their worship is useless, the doctrines they teach are mere human regulations. They put human traditions before the commandments of God."

These words seem directed not against the Pharisees as such but against rigidly doctrinaire Jewish members of the Christian community and against similar people among our own communities today.

Much of such enslavement to culture and tradition is a major source of conflict in our world today, between communities and within families. Such fundamentalism is a source of terrible hatred and violence in many countries and the complete negation of true religion.

Jesus then speaks of where real uncleanness comes from. The source of uncleanness is not any food or drink that comes from outside. Real uncleanness is in the heart. A person does not become "unclean" by eating pork or by coming in contact with blood, still less by not washing hands before eating but by "evil intentions" that arise in the depths of the heart: lust, stealing, murder, adultery, greed, maliciousness, deceit, jealousy, slanderous talk, arrogance.

All these are in direct conflict with a genuinely loving relationship with God and people. Washing hands does nothing to change that.

In today's reading from the Letter of James, the writer speaks of the real source of law: "All that is good, everything that is perfect...comes down from the Father of all light." Jesus, as the Word of God, is the bearer of all this goodness and perfection. So James exhorts us to "accept and submit to the word which has been planted in you... You must do what the word tells you, and not just listen to it and deceive yourselves."

This very day we will have many opportunities to love and serve Jesus in various situations. Instead of being anxious what I may do wrong, ask rather, "Where and how can I be a more loving, caring and compassionate person this day?"

Sacred Space

O L I V E R I A N

ST OLIVER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, PASCOE VALE

PARISH PRIEST
Pastoral Associate
School Principal

Fr James Puppady
Marthese Temming
Delfina Pieri

Presbytery: 1 Landells Road, PO Box 567, Pascoe Vale 3044 Telephone: 7036 9330
email: pascoevale@cam.org.au
website: <https://stolivers.org.au/>

School: Landells Road, PO Box 667, Pascoe Vale 3044 Telephone: 9354 5130
Parish Office Hours: 9am – 3pm Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

There are no Weekend or Daily Masses or Parish Activities until COVID19 lockdown restrictions lift.

MASS TIMES

Saturday 5.00 pm (Vigil for Sunday)

Sunday 8.45 am & 10.30 am

Tue, Wed, Thurs, Fri 9.15 am

Confessions Saturday 10 – 10.30 am

(In church through both side doors)

Baptisms 2nd Saturday of the month (by appointment)

Marriages By appointment with at least 6 months notice

PARISH ACTIVITIES

Monday	Christian Meditation	7 - 8 pm Parish Centre (contact Chris Rowland 0411 440 746)
Tuesday	Italian Ladies Prayer Group	10.00 am Meeting Room
	Charismatic Prayer Group	7.30 pm Church
Wednesday	Drop-In Centre	1 - 3 pm Church/Parish Centre
Thursday	St Vincent de Paul	5.30 pm Meeting Room <i>(last Thursday of the month)</i>

FROM ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL

SUNDAY 11AM: Live Streamed and C31 Televised (Channel 44 on Digital TV)
6AM: Channel 10 - "Mass for You at Home"

MONDAY - FRIDAY 1PM : Live Streamed. *(Link below)*

SATURDAY 8.00AM: Live Streamed. *(Link below)*

<http://melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass> and
<https://www.youtube.com/user/archmelb>

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 28/29 AUGUST 2021

- Entrance Antiphon:** Have mercy on me, O Lord,
for I cry to you all the day long.
O Lord, you are good and forgiving,
full of mercy to all who call to you.
- Response to the Psalm:** **The just will live in the presence of the Lord.**
- Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia!
The Father gave us birth by his message
of truth, that we might be as the first fruits
of his creation.
Alleluia!
- Communion Antiphon:** Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be
called children of God. Blessed are they who are
persecuted for the sake of righteousness,
for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.

Please remember in your prayers the following:

Those who have died:

Anniversaries: Concetta Guarino, Vaghese Puppady,
Emmanuel deBattista

Those who are ill:

Frances Tamayo, Ocean Goldsmith, Dalmiro Bellio,
Kath Layden, Lamberto Cruz, Monica Wickerson,
Pasquale Buonomo, Sofia Ruggiero, Karen Hardy



Humanitarian crises unfolding in Afghanistan and Lebanon

As the situations in **Afghanistan** and **Lebanon** deteriorate, you can help to support families caught up in the crises.

In **Afghanistan**, people have been forced from their homes, with half of the population in urgent need of food, water, shelter and protection.

In **Lebanon**, the country is running out of power, water, fuel, medicine and food. Even hospitals are facing massive fuel shortages and will soon have to turn off the lights.

Please donate to Caritas Australia so that we are able to respond to crises like these and others across the world.

Visit caritas.org.au/lebanon or www.caritas.org.au/afghanistan or call 1800 024 413 toll free to provide much needed support.

Please continue to support St Oliver's Parish and Fr James. The link:

<https://bit.ly/CDfpayPascoeVale>

You can also donate directly to the Presbytery Account

BSB: 083-347

ACC: 53102 0158

We are very grateful for your support at this time.

Exaudi CATHOLIC NEWS

EXAUDI is a Catholic International News Agency

Exaudi is a voice that, through **information, voices** and **analyses** of the life and activities of the Pope and of the Church, seeks to shed light on current topics and different realities that affect everyone's life in the world.

Exaudi, which features live reporting from the Vatican, Rome and abroad, was born with two objectives:

1. to reinforce the unity of Catholics with the Pope;
2. to contribute to the Evangelization of the world.

The website of the agency is available in

English <https://www.exaudi.org/>, Spanish <https://www.exaudi.org/es>, and Italian <https://www.exaudi.org/it/>.

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At St Oliver's parish we aim to create a child-safe and child-friendly environment. Privacy: In 2001 the Commonwealth and Victorian governments introduced legislation that deals with the manner in which public and private sector organisations may record, use, store and disclose information, including health information collected from individuals. This Parish is committed to upholding and implementing the Privacy Principles set out in the legislation.